

CLAIMS:

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We claim:

1. An apparatus for treating water comprised of contaminants comprising:
 - (a) a contact zone;
 - 5 (b) a separation zone having an aggregation zone above a filtration zone;
 - (c) a collection zone;
 - (d) an inlet port for receiving a feed of water into the contact zone;
 - (e) a passage between the top of the contact zone and the
 - 10 aggregation zone;
 - (f) a removal device adapted to move particles from the aggregation zone to the collection zone; and
 - (g) an immersed membrane filtration device located within the separation zone of the tank for withdrawing a filtered permeate.
- 15 2. A method of treating water having contaminants, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) introducing a feed of water to the inlet port of a contact zone;
 - (b) releasing bubbles into the contact zone;
 - (c) contacting at least a portion of the bubbles to at least a portion of
 - 20 the contaminants thereby forming bubble-contaminant complexes;
 - (d) flowing the bubble-contaminant complexes to an aggregation zone within a separation zone;
 - (e) removing at least some of the bubble-contaminant complexes from the aggregation zone; and
 - 25 (f) withdrawing a filtered permeate through an immersed membrane filtration module from a filtration zone within the separation zone.